BAILY, Per Mopth..... DAILY AND SUIDAY, Per Year... DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month. Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUN, New York City.

PARIS-Klosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and aque No. 10. Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for sublication wish to have rejected articles returned, they

Pensioning the Citizen of Sixty-Two. A veteran of the civil war writes as follows, manifestly under a misapprehension of the law:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Permit me second your motion that judicial examination be had at the very first attempt to pay out of the United States Treasury a single dollar on pension secount on the strength of the Executive ruling that the age of sixty-two years shall be considered as constituting partial disability.

Under your interpretation of the Pension Act of June 27, 1890, as referred to in your editorial of March D, Corporal TANNER, who had both legs mot off, is not eatitled to a pension. He is unable to perform manual labor, but as his headpiece is in tolerably good working order he is able to earn a

The law of Congress clearly says that a pension allowable when the old soldier is incapacitated from earning a living by manual labor, but under your interpretation of this law the old soldier must be not only physically but mentally incapable be fore a pension can be allowed.

Now, if you think old age is not an infirmity which militates against manual labor, wait until you touch sixty-two years of age and then apply for a job where manual labor is required and see how quick you will be turned down.

" SILAS PECKHAM, " Veteran of 1861-1865.

"CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 22." The pension of Corporal TANNER, or that of any other veteran drawing money on account of wounds received or disabilities incurred in the war for the Union, does not depend on any interpretation of the Act of June 27, 1890. Soldiers disabled in the war get their pensions under different statutes, about

which there is no question. The Act of 1890, which our correspondent confuses with the general laws, provided specifically for veterans whose inability to earn a support is occasioned by infirmities not the consequence of their military service, but arising from causes subsequent to the war. This legislation increased the pension list

normously. The two classes of pensions should be clearly differentiated. At the end of the last fiscal year they were divided numerically as follows:

Civil war pensions under the general laws: . 264.130 army invalids. Army widows ... Navy invalids..... Navy widows...... 2,221 624 Total. Under the Act of June 27, 1890: Army invalids. 427.711 Navy invalids. Navy widows .. 605.963

The recent Executive order attempts to create yet another class of pensions without legislation, by assuming that the age of sixty-two is in itself an "infirmity" constituting disability and incapacity to earn a support.

Mr. SILAS PECKHAM will perceive his mistake. He is all right, however, in his opinion that there should be judicial examination of the very first attempt to pay out of the Treasury a single dollar on pension account on the strength of this Executive order.

Whenever the Executive overrides the boundary that separates its functions from those of the Legislative Department, it is the part of the Judiciary to prevent the usurpation.

The Plain Lesson of Yesterday's Fire The merits of Mayor McCLELLAN'S for a system of salt water fire mains had a most impressive practical illustration at noon yesterday.

For thirty minutes and more after arriving at the scene of the blaze in lower obtain anything like a sufficient supply | biographies: of water. They stood by helpless, watching the flames gain headway. The conequence was that more apparatus was ded, and finally the double nine signal, the last resort of the firemen, was counded. That summoned a great part of the apparatus south of Forty-third street, thus leaving only partial protectich for that entire region.

Such eloquent arguments, in favor of or pass unheeded.

Russia's Loss of Prestige.

There is no doubt that the Russian sion. For the transport of troops to the the single track Trans-Siberian Railway, to complete the battleships intended to lation of the interfusion and interpenestrengthen the Baltic fleet. Moreover, it tration of two rich congenial natures. has sent to the front Gen. KOUROPATKIN, reputed the most efficient professional if not impossible, to cope?

If any hope still lingers at St. Petersnight as well be abandoned. The self, the unabashed, innocent, fearless ale of the Russian Navy is shattered. cry of two Egos. The self-confidence of its personnel is that the Baltic and Black Sea fleets of this diary of two throbbing souls. could reach Far Eastern waters during It is more and greater than a history. the coming summer, they would there be It is a poem, pastoral, epic, heroic, meloowerless, for they would possess no dramatic, civil, military, naval and mis- men fitted for the extremely serious work member stated that he smoked cigarettes

port for coaling and repair. By the beginning of autumn Port Arthur will have been captured or rendered useless, and Vladivostok, if not taken, will be on the eve of becoming ice-locked. So long, then, as the present contest shall be limited to a duel between the two original belligerents, the command of the sea will be Japan's. Foolish, therefore, is the Russian vaunt that the terms of peace will be dictated at Tokio. Even should the sturdy soldiers of the Czar chance to prove victorious on the Asiatic continent, not one of them seems likely to set foot, except as a prisoner, on the soil of the Island Empire.

Is not the problem presented by Russia's land operations almost equally unsolvable? Suppose that in the South African War every soldier hurried forward from England after the battle of Colenso had had to be sent by a single track railway from Cairo to the Cape instead of being conveyed by sea to the theatre of conflict! What chance would England then have possessed of grappling successfully with the Boers?

The case supposed is precisely like that with which Gen. KOUROPATKIN has to deal. The situation might have been different, because the Russian Government knew last summer, first, that it had no intention of evacuating Manchuria, or of suffering Japan to dominate Corea; and, secondly, that when its twofold purpose could no longer be disguised, a war with Japan would be unavoidable. It could have used the interval to place in Manchuria three hundred thousand soldiers, and to provide them with food supplies and military stores for two vears in advance.

It is now known that nothing of the kind was done, but that, however lavish may have been the appropriations of money to those ends, they were deflected to illicit objects by the shocking corruption with which every department of the Russian military and civil service is gangrened. As was predicted by those acquainted with the history of her commissariat and quartermaster's department. Russia in the first week of February found herself paralyzed in Manchuria by the same unreadiness and impotence which, in the last war with Turkey, brought her to the verge of shame and ruin.

As it is, months must elapse from the outbreak of the war before she will be able to put an adequate military force in the arena of hostilities; and thereafter it will overtax the capabilities of a single track railroad more than five thousand miles in length to feed from day to day the large army assembled at the front. The fracture for but a single week of that slender thread of communication would mean nothing short of catastrophe to soldiers living from hand to mouth. In a word, the task imposed upon Gen. KOUROPATKIN must be pronounced stupendous, if not essentially impracticable; and they who have prescribed it, well knowing the disgraceful cause of their country's lack of preparation in Manchuria, may yet be adjudged by the Russian people to have been guilty of a crime.

In view of all the discreditable or ominous facts, we are not surprised that a majority of the military experts concur in deeming it improbable, if not impossible, that Russia can reburnish her tarnished prestige, if she is left, singlehanded, to face her Japanese opponent.

Prof. Peck and Two R's.

world is full of books, and Prof HARRY THURSTON PECK has read most of them and written the rest. Why, of all tomes that open their ample pages to him, must he select the Hon. JACOB A. Riis's thoughtful and discriminating work on "THEODORE ROOSEVELT the Citizen" to review in the Bookman? He has not the temperament to appreciate that masterpiece of the modern historical school. The encyclopædia has no affinity with the "Washerwoman of Finchley Common." The cold culture of the universities and the luxuriant tropical simplicity of Mr. Riis are necessarily alien to each other. Latinist, humanist, reader of many tongues, maker of all articles, connoisseur of all perfumes, Prof. Peck is still essentially a sceptic. Scornfully from the heights of Morningside he looks down upon the sequestered vale in which Mr. Riis and Mr. Roose-VELT make their butter, careless of the sophisticated crowd.

Prof. PECK makes this strange accusation against one of the most delightful Broadway the firemen were unable to and original of biographies and auto-

"We find in it almost a justification of the charge that is sometimes made against Americans to the effect that they have no sen se of humor. It is absolutely certain that Mr. Rifs can have none, or if he has, that he kept it in abeyance while turning out so fatuous a piece of writing. The Evening Post of this city has cleverly suggested that the book ought to be entitled 'Teddy: by Jake,' and the suggestion does, in fact, serve as a complete commentary and criticism. Mr. Riis's subject is surely not the President of the United States. the Mayor's plan should not be ignored It is just TEDDY, tout court-at least, wherever it is not JAKE."

"Fatuous" is not a polite word; but Mr. Riis will not mind it. Like his great namesake, JACOB is a plain man. He Government is now doing its best to atone has the wisdom of sincerity. He writes for many sins of omission and commis- nothing that he doesn't believe. He has a noble capacity of admiration, a fine Far East it is straining the capacity of enthusiasm, almost a religious fervor for his subject. One of the charms of and workmen are toiling night and day his book to attentive readers is its reve-

Not since those descriptions of infernal physical metamorphosis in which DANTE oldier of the Empire, and Admiral wanted to know, in effect, "Where's MARABOFF, accounted the most skilful Ovid now?" has there been so absolute naval commander at its disposal. Will a blending of primitive, heroic qualities it be possible, however, by the most sa- and ingenuous admirations; and in Mr. dicious and determined efforts, to re- Riis's pages, the metamorphosis and cover the ground that has been lost? Is mixture is mental, moral, spiritual and be the situation with which Russia is idyllic. While doing the fullest justice confronted one with which, by the nature to Mr. ROOSEVELT'S varied and godlike of the case, she will find it very difficult, excellencies, Mr. RIIS doesn't forget his own. But here is no boasting, no wild triumphal yawp. You feel the antique burg of securing ascendency at sea, it honesty, the truthful utterance of one's

It is inexplicable that a scholar like e. Moreover, were it conceivable Prof. PECK does not get near the soul

cellaneous, with stirring episodes, agreeable interludes, frequent changes of scene and two interchangeable actors. It laughs and weeps. It leaps and yells. It murmurs like the dove. It roars like the mountain lion. Prof. PECK quotes, but seems high-gravel-blind to, a favorite passage of ours:

" 'Guns!' said ROOSEVELT. A line that will never cease to glitter on the stretched forefinger of all Time. Indeed, the work is rich in many ways. It will be, and should be, welcomed reverently in many homes and in every psychological laboratory. Prof. PECK's shallow and insulting criticism cannot hurt a monument that will be treasured long after MARIA BASHKIRTSEFF is forgotten.

A Sermon By the Rector of Grace

Church. We have received a printed copy of a sermon preached at Grace Episcopal Church on the second Sunday in this month by the Rev. Dr. HUNTINGTON, the rector. It is "a plea for Christian legislation in the matter of polygamy and divorce," and is marked throughout by a moral earnestness which commands

Simply as an argument, however, the sermon is not unassailable. It makes assumptions which are not always supported by facts. For instance, Dr. Hun-TINGTON contends that "the duty of the Republic" is to "take Christian ground." "Let the Republic side with CHRIST," he exclaims, "even though secularists lose their temper and all Agnostia protests." But what is the law laid down by CHRIST as spokesman for Almighty Gop?" It is thus read by the rector of Grace Church: "CHRIST utterly discountenanced polygamy, and sanctioned divorce only for one cause."

Now, of the religious communicants

of the United States, aggregating some-

where toward thirty millions, or less than

two-fifths of the total population, about one-third are Roman Catholics who deny that CHRIST sanctioned divorce for any Of the remaining two-thirds, cause. practically all the Protestants, with the exception of less than a million Episcopalians, believe that CHRIST permitted divorce for more than one cause, or for the cause of desertion, besides adultery; and this belief is expressed in the statutes concerning divorce in every State of the Union except South Carolina and New York. In this country there are also more than a million Jews who reject the authority of CHRIST to lay down any law "as spokesman for Almighty Gop." The Mormons, of course, believe that the Divine law permits and requires polygamy. "All Agnostia protests" that the law both as to polygamy and as to divorce is a purely human and conventional rule; and the population of that realm of religious unbelief is undoubedly great, though it cannot be assumed that it includes all or even a majority of the fifty or more millions of the American

people who are classified as outside of

religious communions. Let the Republic "take Christian ground and not be afraid to say that it takes Christian ground," says the distinguished rector of Grace Church. What have the million Jews already here to say about that and what will the many millions more who will be here a generation hence have to say? Moreover, as we have shown, the vast majority of Christian believers in the United States deny that CHRIST laid down any such law of divorce as Dr. Huntington at tributes to him. What will they have to say? So far, the American people have said in their legislation in all the States, except two, that there is no Divine prohibition of divorce for more than one cause, while one-third of the organized Christian believers deny that CHRIST allowed divorce for any cause, but rather established matrimony as a sacrament dissoluble only by death.

Dr. HUNTINGTON would have this Republic proclaim its establishment on "the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST" and make its laws in strict accordance with the principles there laid down. But what are those principles? Christendom is split into two great and radically conflicting divisions because of disagreement as to them. We print to-day, for example, a letter from a distinguished Roman Catholic ecclesiastic, in which he explains that if a Catholic who had been divorced, even for the one cause which, according to Dr. HUNTINGTON, was "sanctioned" by CHRIST, should get married again by the learned rector of Grace Church, he would subject himself to excommuni-

cation-he would be anathema. Nowhere else than on the Christian ground, says the Grace Church rector, can the State find "sure footing." it can tread firmly and with full confidence." But how can the State establish itself on that ground when Christians themselves differ so radically as to the "sure footing," how can it take any decided position on the question without violating our fundamental principle of the separation of Church and State and offending the religious conscience of a great part of its citizens?

Health and Order on the Isthmus. The appointment of Gen. GEORGE W. Davis as Governor of the American zone at Panama would have the cordial approval of all who know the sterling qualities of that officer. Those who do not know them will doubtless have an opportunity to become better acquainted with them. A more suitable choice

could hardly be made. The semi-military character of the appointment should make it easily possible to do much that must be done, and to do it in the way in which it can best be done. The supervision of police and sanitary departments falls properly into the hands of the Governor of the district. The heads of those departments should be, like Gen. Davis, men of the Regular army of the United States, acting in the general capacity of staff officers. A third department might well be in-

cluded-that of Inspector-General. To place these departments in the hands of carefully selected army men, under the authority of Gen. Davis, with the United States, was largely due to would be to place them in control of

that lies before us. The prerequisites for such posts are clear intelligence, a measure of experience, and the ability to control men by strict military rule and discipline.

It is foolish to assume that the United States possesses any magic wand which can be waved over the Isthmus, sweeping out of existence its malarial poisons, its active and its latent germs of deadly diseases. It is worse than foolish to assume that we shall or can escape all the evils which cost the French company the lives of thousands of its workmen and scores of its officials. Heat, moisture, decayed and decaying vegetable matter, low lying swamp lands breeding mosquitoes in numbers almost beyond northern conception, are fixed conditions which can be modified but not removed. That which is most demanded is efficient safeguarding against their evil consequences. This can best be done through an exercise of authority such as is acquired only as the result of long military training.

An army of workmen will be required. They should be, in police and sanitary matters, treated as an army. A corps of inspectors, having a larger authority than that granted to the Inspector-General's department, in the army, should exercise an alert vigilance wherever a should stand the police and sanitary authorities to enforce all ordinances with absolute rigidity. No single area, no single workman, should be permitted to imperil other areas and thousands of lives. Many of the diseases of that district speedily become epidemics. Malaria in some of its worst and most dangerous forms, yellow fever, smallpox, and dysentery are enemies that cannot be lightly disregarded. Putrid emanations from decaying organic matter are as persistent as the heat and the moisture which produce them, and the climate predisposes the human system to the liseases which result from them. It is needless to be unduly frightened by these conditions, but it is criminal folly to stop short of the utmost means for their correction and for the prevention of the evils which follow them.

The exercise of military discipline for the prevention of widespread disease can be most safely entrusted to men of military experience. The work of the Governor of the Canal Zone can be made most effective by supporting him with a staff composed of men of that kind.

Cuba's Election Tangles.

The disputes which have followed the Cuban election were expected by all who are familiar with Cuban politics. They differ only in degree from earlier experiences. The same conditions have arisen out of every election that has been held in the island, whether before or since the withdrawal of American authority.

Just how much ground there is for some of the really serious charges which have now been brought cannot be said. Some of the allegations are certainly no more than the wail of the disappointed. Some of them promise serious trouble and vigorous debate in the Cuban House of Representatives when credentials are presented at the opening of the session. In the meantime it is safe to discount heavily the tales of wholesale ballot box stuffing; of the rejection in block of the votes cast in entire districts, and of vicarious voting by officials for and on behalf of and to the exclusion of hundreds of those who were lawfully entitled to the ballot.

That crooked methods were employed is very likely. That they were limited to either of the contesting parties is in no way probable. Nationalists and Republicans are doubtless equally deep in the mire, as they have been on other occasions. But, granting even a widespread corruption, the situation calls for no censorious criticism from this country. We are not yet so far away from similar proceedings in our own land that we are at liberty to jeer at our neighbors. Nor need there be any apprehension that

out of it in their own way. There may be and doubtless will be some vigorous and even intemperate language, and some gesticulation that will look very much like fist-shaking. But the Cubans will straighten out their own tangle, and the incident will very likely point the way to cleaner paths on future occasions.

The Men Who Give Their Lives for the City.

When Policeman Enright walked up to a murderous thief last Sunday morning and met his death, he did not stop to wonder what would become of his wife and children when he lay dead. Had he faltered, it would have been no discredit to his bravery or loyalty to his duty. Under the existing laws the city is prohibited from giving to the survivors of the policeman's family more than

\$300 a year. When Commissioner McADOO says that he believes that the law ought to be altered so that a man who lays down his life for the city, doing his duty for the city, may feel that those dependent upon him will be cared for adequately by the city when he is gone, Commissioner McADoo speaks as the true representative of the people of this town. New York wants the privilege of taking care of the families of its own brave men, killed in the performance of duty, whether

they be firemen or policemen. The sooner a law is enacted which enables New York to carry out its will in this respect, the better.

The smokers of Canada consume nearly 200,000,000 cigarettes a year, nearly all of which are made in Canada. Some of those who do not smoke are appalled to note an increase of nearly 40,000,000 in the consumption for a single year. They demand the prohibition of the cigarette.

During the last session of the Parliament the matter was actively agitated. It is up again in the present session. The discussion is not devoid of humorous features. One member asserted that the deterioration of the Spanish race, as revealed in the war Another the excessive use of tobacco.

because he found pleasure in doing so, and because it was good for his health. He was not aware that he had yet established a bad moral record. He said that he understood that it was cannon smoke and not cigarette

smoke which was the cause of Spanish defeat in the late war. Upon the basis of his opponent's argument, he believed it would be much in the interests of humanity to send a package of cigarettes to one's

Another member asked permission to suggest to the ladies who were promoting the anti-digarette movement that "there is more evil done in Canada by bad cooking than by cigarettes.'

Inasmuch as Premier LAURIER joined with his political opponents in objection to the measure, it is probable that the cigarette trade will not be destroyed in Canada Probably no other political organization

that ever pretended to amount to anything has been so incompetently managed as the Citizens' Union. Its appeal to Mayor McClellan for funds "to rescue the city" from the "corrupt and disreputable influences which now control it" is a fair example of the habitual, ingrained and ineradicable stupidity of some of its people.

Immigration is pouring in at a rate which suggests that no reports of a setback in our national prosperity have been sent over the sea to those newcomers by their friends already here. Only when the ingang of men is employed. Behind them | dications are favorable, so far as concerns getting employment, does the stream of immigration come in at the rate of thousands daily, as it is coming now.

THE NEGLECTED HAND.

The Case of Certain Statesmen. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Hon. Benjamin Ryan Tillman of South Carolina writes with his left hand, snaps his left fingers for a page and handles his disputatious pitchfork entirely with his mighty left. Warren of Wyoming he raised the famous hand, and with one swoop of that member he disproved one of the hoary traditions of the

The Hon, Albert J. Hopkins of Aurora Borealis, Ill., whose passionate locks are an oriflamme of tumult and war, writes with his and, and lingles his hard-earned salary in his left-hand trousers pocket.

The Hon. Eugene Hale of Maine and the

Hon. William Boyd Allison of Iowa invariably employ their left hands when ramming home arguments on appropriation bills, and when once rammed home they stay there. Nobody accuses either of lacking will power or force. It may be true, as sundry Manhattan Islanders assert, that bookkeepers using the eft hand are awkward and inept, but among men entirely great the left hand is as mighty

INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

as the right. INNOCEN SENATE PRESS GALLERY, Washington, March 25.

The Sinistrous Three Per Cent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. Goldfeder's argument in this morning's paper that a left-handed clerk is not a desiraole one, because he keeps his paper files, etter files, &c., in a different place from that of his right-handed colleague, is not convincing, for what difference does that make? Why should there be any extra work to have t reversed and "righted," if no one but him-

self uses these articles? When Mr. Goldfeder, however, asserts that the left-handed man lacks will power, "or he wouldn't be left-handed," he treads on ground with which he is evidently not familiar. If anything is proved by his left-

familiar. If anything is proved by his lefthandedness it is that he must possess a great
deal of will power to persist in the use of his
left hand in the face of the determined efforts
which are always made to induce a child to
use the right hand.

The question of left-handedness is one
which has been the subject of scientific research for years, and cannot be dismissed
by such off-hand assertions as Mr. Goldfeder's. Numerous theories have been advanced in explanation which this is not the
place to discuss, as it would lead too far; but
that much may be said, that will power has
absolutely nothing to do with it. All the evidence points to a difference between the two
hemispheres of the brain as the cause of lefthandedness, and that would explain the
ineradicable bias manifested by a small percentage of people toward the use of the left centage of people toward the use of the left hand.

As for the question whether any one has ever seen a successful left-handed business man, if Mr. Goldfeder will take the trouble to institute an inquiry on a large scale, he will probably find that they are just as numerous in proportion to their number, which is only about 3 per cent., as right-handed men.

New YORK, March 25. F. E. D.

Where Is the Fallure of Will Power? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I want to take exception to the criticism of lefthanded men made by Mr. Goldfeder in your issue of March 24.

The fact of a man's being left-handed is we shall be called upon to interfere in Cuban affairs under the Platt Amendment.

If the Cubans have got themselves into a political mess, they will get themselves

MARLBOROUGH, N. Y., March 25. owing more to lack of will power in his parents

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It was news o me, and I venture to say it was to others, that "our Generals had no faith in the bullet during our civil war," and that the Union soldiers were rushed upon the Confederates at Antietam and Fredericksburg "armed only with the bayonet" because of that lack of faith in the bullet! vision annihilated at Antietam, 8,000 killed and wounded in front of Marye's Hill, and not a single inion bayonet reaching the line of the enemy!" I was in the battle of Antietam, well provided with bullets, as were all the soldiers whom I wonder how it is that I never heard of thi plorable want of bullets until Mr. McDonald Van Wagoner told about it in his letter to THE SUN

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., March 25.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. McDon-ald Van Wagoner speaks in THE SUN of March 25 f "a division annihilated at Antietam, 8,000 silled and wounded in front of Marye's Hill, and not a single Union bayonet reaching the line of the Will the gentleman kindly inform me whose

division and whose corps was thus given the quietus? ANOTHER VETERAN OF THE CIVIL WAR.

In the Barber Shop.

First Voice-They didn't go after this fire right What they ought to have done was to get after I on top and beat it down, and burn the build ing down, not let the fire work up . and for all the firemen could do of course it go into the next buildings. Second Voice-It's a pretty hard thing to handle

First Voice-Well, if the firemen had gone abou it as they should, they'd never have let this get above the story it started in. They ought to have coupled up all the engines and simply smothered the fire with water from on top. They could have cut holes in the floor above and worked down at it. They didn't do the right thing at the righ time: that was all that was necessary for them to do. Trouble was they didn't think of the one thing they ought to have done, and then the flames got away from them and it was too late.

Second Voice-It's difficult sometimes for them to get where they want to.

First Voice—Not if they start in time. Grea rouble is that they don't think of the right thing o do until it's too late. Now, if 1-Third Voice-Friend, have you been down to

this fire! First Voice-Well, I got as near it as I could. The i was so big I couldn't get nearer than five blocks away.

Striking short stories make up the greater par of McClure's Magazine for April. Mr. John La Farge continues his criticism of old paintings. Miss Tarbell's remarkable history of the Standard Oil Company and Mr. T. Nelson Page's study of the negro problem are continued, while Mr. L. Steffens es the political scandal in Missouri. There is a single poem, of which Mrs. Harriet Prescott

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE. in Explanation by the Secretary of the

National League Against Divorce. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The interest in the recent meeting of representa-tive clergymen and their action regarding livorce, fully and accurately reported in THE SUN of the 24th inst., may make some ac

count of the movement useful. My investigations twenty and more years ago led me to see that, as I said in the Prince on Review in March, 1884, "the twentieth century will be soon enough for us to take up the subject of a constitutional amendment" seriously. As secretary of the National League for the Protection of the Family I proposed and we secured the "Report of the Department of Labor at Washington on Mar-riage and Divorce in the United States" for the immediate object of showing as nearly possible the extent of migration for divorce. The results of that investigation onfirmed my opinion that large as the numbers of migrations to States other than those of the proper residence of the parties are, they cover a very small per cent. of the divorces granted. A national law therefore, affect a very small part of the di vorce cases of the country, even including those where it is desirable to secure a common status of the married in all the States-certainly an important object.

About the time this report appeared, though without knowledge of it, the State of New York created a commission to confer with similar commissions that might be appointed in other States for the purpose of securing uniform laws on a variety of subjects, including marriage and divorce. W. L. Snyder of New York, who had written a book the subject, entitled the "Geography of Marriage," has been a leading member of the commission. In September, 1800, I published an article on the "Problem of Uni-

on the subject, entitled the "Geography of Marriage," has been a leading member of the commission. In September, 1800, I published an article on the "Problem of Uniformity" in the Arena. The American Bar Association, which had taken up the subject as one of its leading objects but with little success up to that time, was brought into touch with the New York commissioners and with the work of the marriage and divorce investigation by myself. We all agreed that constitutional amendment was out of the question—for a long time, at least—the committee of the Bar Association pointing to the book of Mr. Snyder and to my article in the Arena as conclusive on the point.

The creation of various State commissions has been steadily going on until some thirty or thirty-five have come into existence. Unfortunately, their members have had to serve without pay, and consequently they have met for only two or three days each year, and the attendance has often been small. But a good deal has been accomplished, enough to show the practical importance of the work. For example, twenty-three States have already enacted the important uniform bill relating to "negotiable bills."

Unexpectedly to most of the commissioners themselves, the subject of divorce has proved the most difficult of all the topics considered, and for that reason it has been allowed to remain untouched, except in a proposed act of "Uniform Divorce Procedure." But unexpected objections were found to that act, and further consideration is put over until next summer. A good deal, however, can probably be done toward uniformity on these important subjects. If Congress could be persuaded, on account of the Territories, to appoint commissioners on its part, with a small sum of money for the use of the work, the effects would be salutary. Perhaps this and provision for bringing the marriage and divorce investigation of 1859 down to date can be secured another winter. We of the League for the Protection of the Farny have been at work for this object.

If this movement for

New York and the successi the result of a similar movement in Rhode Island are in a measure the outcome of this policy. Hitherto the churches have vainly tried to agree on some specific measure. My suggestion has been that they begin where they can hope to agree and do what they can there and then move on to more difficult tasks as they are able to do so. This, evidently, is the policy of the New York conference. The committee on national and State legislation seem to have a very just view of the case when they say that an agreement of the churches is necessary to the agreement of the States. And I would add that it is especially necessary that they agree on a uniform course of action among themselves for the government of their own members as the best possible influence to bring to bear on the States. Thanks to Bishop Doane and his associates, we are now in a fair way to do something practical by agreeing where we can and working together where we can. Samuel W. Dike.

Aubundale, Mass., March 25.

AUBURNDALE, Mass., March 25. Sayings That Say Something.

From the Indianapolis Journal. Judge Parker may be a very good man to beat Hearst with, but when it came to running against Theodore Roosevelt he would not be dangerous.

From the Nashville American. The time has come when we should present our men. Send the Southern delegations to the conventions uninstructed, and if they can agree that the South has the man, nominate the country, but exhibit the disposition to determine the nominee in the future. From the Boston Herald.

The chief difference betwixt President Roosevelt and his adversaries is that he is playing politics, while most of them don'

From the Boston Transcript Nobody can claim for Mr. Fairbanks that is magnetic, either as a speaker or in his personality. He is, indeed, almost as cautious as Senator Allison. Should he be nominated for the Vice-Presidency we need not expect that his activities in the campaign will be signalized by eagle flights of oratory.

Politics "Makes Strange Bedfellows."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: So many mis takes have appeared in accounts of the primary contest between the Plaza Central Park Republican Club and the so-called "regular Republican organ zation" in the Twenty-ninth Assembly district that we respectfully request you to publish th lowing facts: First-The Plaza Central Park Republican Club

will place its own ticket in the field and has made no combination with any other club or faction in the strict. It hopes for the support of every Republi can in the district who desires a strong and efficient organization, capable of increasing the Republican e and putting an end to diminishing majorities. Second—This is a district contest, and neither Governor Odell nor Senator Platt is involved in it. Third—The fight between Mr. Mason and Mr. chwarzier is not an issue.

Fourth-We have not attacked Senator Elsberg r any other individual. We are merely exercising e American right to vote for whom we please. Fifth-We have not placed the names of our rick or device to win. Our motives and methods have been so continu

ally misrepresented by our opponents that we hope you will publish this letter in the interests of justice and fair play. NEWBOLD M Chairman campaign committee, Plaza Central Park Republican Club.

JOHN HENRY HAMMOND. Chairman executive committee, Plaza Central NEW YORK, March 26.

In the Burlington Magazine for April (Macmillans) attention is drawn at once to three remarkable pictures in tempera by William Blake. The illustrations of the Veitch Chinese porcelain at Birmingham and the Wolgemut woodcuts are noticeable. Other articles deal with the pictures in the chapel at St. Catherine at Siena, with English furniture makers of the eighteenth century and with embroidered Bible covers.

THE NORMAL COLLEGE.

Legislation to Give It a Separate Board of Trustees Earnestly Advocated.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Permit me to say a word in behalf of the excellent bill now pending in the State Legislature giv-ing the Normal College a separate board of trustees. This bill was drawn by members of the alumnæ who have been working for the past four years to create public sentiment in favor of this change. It is not in any sense. a political measure, but should secure the hearty support of the best men of both par-ties. It has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Victor J. Dowling, a stanch Demo-crat, and in the Assembly by the Hon. Joseph H. Adams, an equally steadfast Republican.
As a former trustee of the Normal College

I am convinced that the change should have

been made when the city was consolidated,

shortly after the same change was made in

the charter of the College of the City of New

York. When the Normal College was estab-lished thirty-four years ago, and its affairs placed in the hands of the Board of Education. conditions were very different from those which prevail to-day. The city of New York consisted of only the Borough of Manhattan and a small portion of the Borough of The Bronx. The schools were so few and so far between that the City Superintendent was personally acquainted with all the teachers It was therefore possible for the Board of Education to devote a proper amount of time and attention to the Normal College. Indeed, in those days, this institution claimed Board of Education that sometimes the welfare of the elementary schools was unduly subordinated to that of the Normal College. As late as 1884 there were but 3,040 teachers in the public school system of New York city.

subordinated to that of the Normal College. As late as 1834 there were but 3,040 teachers in the public school system of New York city. All this is changed to-day. This great city, with its five boroughs, offers to the cars of the Board of Education over 500 schools requiring the services of 15,000 teachers. While originally the Normal College was the only institution in the city offering secondary education to girls, there are to-day fifteen other such institutions and two of them are for the training of teachers. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the Normal College has at times suffered for the lack of that fostering care which it would receive from a separate board of trustees. It is rather a matter for amazement that it has not suffered more. The committee of the Board of Education which looks after the Normal College is composed of gentlemen who have earnestly tried to do their duty by this institution; but they have been overworked by reason of the multiplicity of the duties expected of a member of the Board of Education under the present School Chapter of the City Charter.

The work of the separate Board of Trustees in building up the College of the City of New York in the past four years has thoroughly proved the efficiency of such a board. The young women of our great city deserve the best that can be done for them; they deserve to be as well treated as their brothers; and when they unite, as they have done, to ask for a separate board of trustees for the college which they love, politicians should sink their differences and yield to their demands.

The new bill provides that the president of the Board of Education shall be a member ex-officio of the cheap and the president of the Board of Education for the state normal schools, for they, too, furnish many of the teachers in our public school system. It is folly to say that the Normal College should be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education the Power of the Board of Education under the title. Trustee of the Normal Col

Question Concerning Marriages of Cathelles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your report in to-day's SUN of the conference on divorce, held at St. Bartholomew's parish house, it is stated that the following resolution was offered by Bishop Greer and passed,

Resolved. That in recognition of the comity which should exist between Christian churches it is destrable, and would tend to increase the spirit of Christian unity, for each Church represented in the conference to advise and, if ecclesiastical authority will allow to enjoin its ministers to refuse to unite in marriage any person or persons whose marriage the ministers have good reason to believe is forbidden by the laws of the Church in which either party seeking to be married holds memberalip.

Now, it is a fact of public notoriety that Catholics are forbidden to unite in marriage, under any circumstances, before a Protestant minister, and that under penalty of excom-

It is also pretty generally known that Catholies are not allowed to unite in marriage with non-Catholies, even before a priest, without special dispensation from the Pope.

Does the above resolution mean that "each Church representative in the conference is Church representative in the conference is to advise and, if ecclesiastical authority will allow, enjoin its ministers to refuse to unite in marriage all Roman Catholics for the reason that they are forbidden by the laws of their Church to contract marriage before any Protestant minister, or at least all Roman Catholics whom the ministers have good reason to believe have not received permission from the Pope to contract marriage with non-Catholics?

Syracuse, March 24.

Absolute Belief in the Divinity of Christ. To THE EDITION OF THE SUN—Sir: I was interested in your editorial of March 28 entitled "The Triumph of Unitarianism," and while I would not regard the social meeting of religious clubs as necessarily meaning absolute unanimity of belief, it does mark lessened asperity.

Personally, it is hard for me to see how any one

can reject the dviinity of Jesus Christ. It is not alone that centuries ago He raised the dead to life, gave sight to the blind and loosed the lips of the nb, but it is because of His ever-present power and sympathy and love that hundreds of millions believe in Him to-day.

This belief in Jesus Christ to-day strengthens

the souls of the humblest as well as the most active in the church militant. He who is already an heir of Heaven is so rich and his power with the Eternal Father is so great that even the power of kings and potentates fades beside this humble vital faith in the Son of God and the Son of man.

The Christian can enjoy life as can no other, for

his Leader's voice rings in his ears, "Lo. I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Jesus Christ claims all power in heaven and As He has shown His omnipotence to me in sub-

duing my own nature, and that of my friends and neighbors, I can take Him absolutely at His word in everything else. Some sneer at the Saviour's birth, but only one

born of a Virgin could be absolutely holy. The mysteries of the godhead and the union of the true believer with the Creator are all solved by faith in the great Nazarene. WILLIAM K. PALMER.

NEW ROCHELLE, March 24.

Going West to Worcester

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: Apropos of an anecdote told in your paper of March 4. I know of a similar illustration of that ignorance of the Western country which is so common among the people of the Eastern States.

Some years ago a friend of mine was superin-

tendent of motive power on the New York and New England Railroad. He went to Boston from a Western road. He told me that one day an elderly nan who lived in the suburbs of Boston came into "Well, Mr. K---, I guess I'll go West for a trip."

"How far are you going?" asked Mr. K-, sup-osing his friend intended setting out for lows of Nebraska, at least. "Well," said the man, "I guess I'll go as far as forcester."

G. W.-P. ATEINSON.

Two Rules.

EVANSTON, Ill., March 24.

"My motto," remarked the Hon. Charles F. Murphy, "is 'Let every tub stand on its own bol-

"And mine," said the Hon. P. Henry McCarren, "Is 'Let every lid cover its own pot.'